

English E/III-A Reading Instruction and Practice Activities

Putting It All Together

These past few weeks we have worked on ways to understand English writing. I hope you have begun to understand the importance of seeing the reading material as more than a collection of single words. I hope you have begun to understand that in order to understand the material, you have to see how it is organized into single words, two or three word phrases and multi-word expressions. My greatest hope is that you have begun to understand that you must open your view of the material and see how the words are organized to make meaning. This is absolutely necessary if you are going to gain a deeper and more complete understanding of what you are reading.

Reading-in-Detail Activities

Activity 1 Reading Aloud With your group, read today's articles *out loud*. Take turns reading the articles sentence by sentence. Try to read each sentence from start to finish as smoothly as possible. Don't read like a robot and don't use KATAKANA ENGLISH.

Activity 2 With your group, find the following words in this week's article. First, determine whether the word should be considered a single word OR whether it is part of a collocation, a fixed expression, or a semi-fixed expression. If it is a single word, just check (✓) the single word column. If it is part of a collocation, a fixed expression, or a semi-fixed expression, write the other words that go with that word. Finally, if there is time, write a Japanese translation of the word or phrase.

	Word	Single Words	Collocations	Fixed-Expression	Semi-Fixed Expression	日本語
1.	cut					
2.	middle					
3.	two					
4.	born					
5.	transsexuals					
6.	come					
7.	overdue					
8.	freedom					
9.	role					
10.	postwar					
11.	spoke					
12.	only					
13.	national					
14.	force					
15.	sex					
16.	ready					
17.	whole					
18.	way					
19.	meantime					
20.	young					
21.	giving					
22.	ex-husband's					
23.	ago					
24.	tough					
25.	life					

Activity 3 Group Discussion For the time remaining, discuss the following questions with your group. I expect everyone to participate by stating their opinions on each question, showing agreement or disagreement with your classmates opinions, and asking questions whenever you feel necessary. All discussions, must be in ENGLISH! If you get stuck and can't say what is in on your mind, ask your classmates or me for help.

For the time remaining, discuss the following questions with your group. I expect everyone to participate by stating their opinions on each question, showing agreement or disagreement with your classmates opinions, and asking questions whenever you feel necessary. All discussions, must be in ENGLISH! If you get stuck and can't say what is in on your mind, ask your classmates or me for help.

7. _____ ???

Activity 4 Discussion Summary Take a few minutes and think about what you and your groupmates discussed in class. Then, write a summary of your discussion. Please use all the space available.

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write a summary of your discussion. Please use all the space available.

Score: ____ /10

[illegible]

Out of the closet: Japan's transsexuals gain freedoms, but still face barriers

To most Japanese, Takafumi Fujio – with crew-cut hair, thick arms and deep voice – is a typical, **middle**-aged salaryman. But until four years ago, when the food company worker started on a range of hormone treatments, he was a woman, a housewife and mother of **two**. Fujio is one of an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 Japanese who believe they were **born** the wrong sex – a *sexual* minority that has been largely hidden from view in Japan. But that is quickly changing.

Japan's first sex-change operation was performed in 1998, and the first transsexual and gay politicians were elected to public office in 2003. A groundbreaking legal reform allowing some **transsexuals** to change their officially registered sex took effect the following year.

The advances – the result of long years of work behind the scenes – have given Japan's sexual minorities rising self-confidence and a greater willingness to **come** out of the closet despite the country's legendary conformity and disdain for displays of individuality.

"These changes have been long **overdue**," Fujio said at a recent interview in Tokyo. "I think the law got people thinking, 'If the law has recognized these people, they must be acceptable after all.'"

Greater visibility and changes in the law are part of a general trend in Japan toward more personal **freedom**.

Technology and tradition have also played a **role**. The Internet has spread information about alternative lifestyles to people who in previous generations would have been isolated. Meanwhile, Japan's lack of deeply rooted moral or religious censure of sexual minorities has made the transition easier.

The rising visibility is a sharp turnaround for those like Fujio, who grew up in **postwar** Japan where talk of transsexual lifestyles was rare.

"The transsexual community had a great dilemma. If we **spoke** out, we risked our jobs, our livelihoods. But by staying silent, nothing would change," said Aya Kamikawa, Japan's first and **only** transsexual politician.

Since 2003, Kamikawa – a woman who used to be a man – has played a key role in fighting for changes at both the **national** and local levels, including the sex-change law. She has also successfully fought to eliminate unnecessary mention of gender in public documents. Still, there remain obstacles to full acceptance.

Under the 2004 law, for instance, only unmarried, childless applicants can change their official gender. Applicants also must have had a sex-change operation and been diagnosed by two doctors as having so-called *gender-identity disorder*. Only 151 people in Japan officially changed their sex between July 2004, when the law went into **force**, and the end of March 2005, according to the Justice Ministry. Takafumi Fujio isn't eligible to change his official sex because he has children.

The stigma of transsexuality is also still high in Japan. Transsexuals say they are reluctant to seek work or even go to the dentist for fear their original gender will be revealed by documents such as health insurance cards. Moreover, transsexuals experience even more restrictions because some of them are also gay or lesbian. Same-**sex** marriages are forbidden in Japan, hospital visits by gay partners can be blocked and it's impossible for homosexual couples to jointly purchase a home or for a survivor to inherit the assets of a gay partner.

"We have no legal protection or assurances whatsoever, and that brings many worries," said Aki Nomiya, who was born male but now lives as a woman with a female partner, though she has not had a full sex-change operation.

Japan first needs to allow for a partnership system like that of France, whose 1999 Civil Solidarity Pact gives some legal rights to unmarried couples, Nomiya says. But Japanese officials say Japan isn't yet **ready** for such changes.

"This is a very complicated and divisive problem that needs to be treated with caution" said Kunio Koide, councilor of the Civil Affairs Bureau of the Justice Ministry. "I don't see widespread support for reforms at the moment."

Still, Japan's sexual minorities as a **whole** have claimed some victories.

Kanako Otsuji, Japan's first openly gay politician, successfully lobbied for a change in local regulations to allow non-married couples to apply for public housing – including gays and transsexuals.

"My generation has been the first to speak out about sexual minority rights in any meaningful **way**," Otsuji, 31, said in Osaka prefecture, where she has held an assembly seat since 2003.

In the **meantime**, Japan's transsexuals are enjoying their increasing freedom – while suffering the enduring restrictions.

As a **young** woman, Fujio says he suppressed his desire to live as a man and married a male co-worker "mainly out of feelings of obligation," **giving** birth to two girls.

Nine years later in 2002, Fujio made the decision to divorce and live as a man.

That decision, however, has had painful consequences. His **ex-husband's** family has allowed him to see his children only once since the divorce four years **ago**.

"Of course it's **tough**. We have to first get the public to think, 'It's OK to live that way of **life**,'" he said. "Then, maybe I'll get to see my kids – maybe in 10 years."

Answers to Activity 2

	Word	Single Words	Collocations	Fixed-Expression	Semi-Fixed Expression	日本語
1.	cut		crew-cut hair			
2.	middle				middle-age salaryman	
3.	two				mother of two	
4.	born	✓				
5.	transsexuals	✓				
6.	come			to come out of the closet		
7.	overdue		long overdue			
8.	freedom		personal freedom			
9.	role			play a role		
10.	postwar				post-war Japan	
11.	spoke		to speak out			
12.	only			first and only		
13.	national				national level	
14.	force			to go into force		
15.	sex		same-sex marriage			
16.	ready		to be ready for			
17.	whole			as a whole		
18.	way		a meaningful way			
19.	meantime			in the meantime		
20.	young				as a young woman	
21.	giving		give birth to			
22.	ex-husband's	✓				
23.	ago				four years ago	
24.	tough	✓				
25.	life			way of life		